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Approved For Release 2002/11/01 : CIA-RDP78-06202A000100020001-9

Fr: DTR

Excerpt from Testimony of Secretary of State Dean Rusk Before the
Senate Armed Services Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee
30 August 1966

Senator Smith: Mr. Secretary, there has been mounting criticism of the CIA for alleged invasion of foreign policy with critics pointing to the Bay of Pigs, to Indonesia and to Vietnam. That criticism, led by Senator McCarthy and Senator Fulbright, reached the point of a demand and drive for the Senate Foreign Relations to share membership on the Senate Watchdog Committee on the CIA with the Appropriations Committee and Armed Services Committee, and to one of the very rare instances when the Senate closed the doors to the public and held a secret session on this issue. You are perhaps in the most unique position of any living person to have knowledge of this allegation of CIA invasion of foreign policy. In the first place, you are the Secretary of State against whose department such an alleged invasion would be made. In the second place, you are a member of the National Security Council and the CIA is established under the National Security Council. It advises and makes recommendations to the National Security Council and performs under the direction of the National Security Council.

My question, Mr. Secretary, is are these charges against the CIA of invasion of foreign policy true?

Secretary Rusk: They are not to my knowledge. I think I would certainly know because we have inter-agency machinery by which the things that

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are done by CIA, which are greatly exaggerated by the way in the press around the world, are done as a matter of policy. In the particular case of the Bay of Pigs, President Kennedy and I have taken our full share of responsibility for that. I am not one of those who try to unload that one on the CIA. We had a full chance at that one. Neither one of us has backed away from that responsibility. Now we have machinery by which this is done. We are subject to a good many attacks and charges in many different places for the involvement of CIA in situations in which they are not involved. In private session I shall go over with you the fact that since I have been Secretary of State, there have been some 53 or 54 coup d'etats somewhere in the world. The CIA did not bring these about. The CIA did not bring them about. These came about through actions and through pressures and forces inside of these various countries. I think there is no question whatever that CIA is operating under the policy direction of those that have policy responsibility.

Senator Smith: Mr. Secretary, in answer to my direct question, are these charges against the CIA of invasion of foreign policy true? Your answer is no? .

Secretary Rusk: No, I think it is true as a matter of fact that we who have the policy responsibility exercise it and that I have not known of a situation since I have been Secretary of State when the CIA has tried to usurp that function.